

School closures in bad weather

Guelph-Wellington-Dufferin school board trustees from both the public and Catholic boards met earlier this week to discuss items of importance to local students, including when to close schools in extreme cold weather.

Trustees Martha MacNeil and Barb White presented a report and made several recommendations in order to provide guidance to staff on the issue.

The board voted in favour of amending the procedure on 'Inclement Weather and School Closures' to include an Environment Canada Wind Chill index. Now, when it drops below -35°C by 7 a.m., schools may be closed.

The rationale for amending the procedure's language will allow flexibility for the Director when making the decision to close a school to students due to inclement weather.

Recommendations also passed Tuesday include making information, regarding risk of frostbite during extreme cold temperatures, available online for parents.

By Wendy Gabrek